

Senate Government Operations Committee 1

Amendment No. 1 to SB1016

**Bell
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1016

House Bill No. 1027*

by deleting Section 2 and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-240(a), is amended by inserting the following language as a new subdivision:

() Tennessee medical examiner advisory council, created by § 38-7-201;

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting Section 3 and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-7-201, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) There is created the Tennessee medical examiner advisory council, referred to in this section as the "council."

(2)

(A) The council shall consist of eighteen (18) members, each of whom shall be a resident of this state.

(B) The director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation shall be a permanent member of the council.

(C) The governor shall appoint members to the council as follows:

(i) Two (2) members from each regional forensic center, one (1) of whom must be a forensic pathologist and one (1) of whom must be a medicolegal death investigator or administrator, to be selected from a list of nominees submitted by the regional chief medical examiner;

(ii) One (1) district attorney general;

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(iii) One (1) district public defender;

(iv) Two (2) county medical examiners that are not forensic pathologists and are not employees of the department of health;

(v) One (1) licensed funeral director; and

(vi) One (1) county mayor.

(D) The state chief medical examiner or state chief's designee shall serve as an ex-officio, voting member of the council.

(E) All regular appointments to the council shall be for terms of three (3) years. Members may serve unlimited consecutive terms. Each member shall serve until a successor is appointed. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the governor for the remainder of an unexpired term.

(b) Each member of the council shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(c) The council shall organize annually, and select a chair and other officers as needed. Meetings shall be held at least annually with additional meetings as frequently as may be required.

(d)

(1) Any member who misses more than fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year shall be removed as a member of the council.

(2) The council's chair shall promptly notify, or cause to be notified, the appointing authority of any member who fails to satisfy the attendance requirement as prescribed in subdivision (d)(1).

(e) The council shall have the power and duty to:

(1) Review candidates and make a recommendation to the commissioner of health on the appointment of the chief medical examiner and deputy state medical examiners;

(2) Assist the chief medical examiner in the development and updating of guidelines for death investigations and forensic autopsies in this state;

(3) Review all standards, guidelines, and legislative proposals promulgated by the department of health for the medical examiner system;

(4) Review and amend, as needed, an annual report on death investigations in this state, to be prepared by the department of health and the office of the state chief medical examiner; and

(5) Provide reports and recommendations to the commissioner on causes of death which may need public health intervention, funding issues, information technology needs, and any other issues as the council sees fit.

(g) In the event of disputes arising from fatality review boards, the council shall have the authority to review such cases and make recommendations for the resolution of such disputes.